

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
MADISON, WISCONSIN, U. S. A. 53706

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY  
BIRGE HALL  
TELEPHONE NO. 608-262-1057

May 22, 1970

Dr. Joshua Lederberg  
Department of Genetics  
Stanford University School of Medicine  
Stanford University Medical Center  
Stanford, California 94305

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

Thank you very much for your courtesy in sending me a carbon of your letter. I always read your column in the Madison Capital Times and always find it most stimulating, interesting and of great value to my students as well. I have clipped many of them and used them on our bulletin board and refer to them in my lectures. Thank you again for doing this service for American scientists, for acting, in fact, as the conscience of socially concerned biologists.


Let me tell you in one sentence the genesis of the paper that was published in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientist and of which I enclosed a copy with this letter for your files. Originally it was written in the winter of 1966-67 and was then submitted to Science. The reviewers liked it but Abelson said no, then we ~~reordered~~ *wrote it a* second time, sent it in, again the reviewers like it, but Abelson again said no, with the excuse that this is all very obvious and need not be said again by somebody else. By this time it was the winter of 1967-68. Eventually after simply giving up on ever having it published, I sent it to the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientist who were very glad to have it. Viewed in the perspective of having being written nearly five years ago, it is more understandable that we were pessimistic. It is true that today, all over the place, many people are becoming more and more interested in the whole question of man's psychological, emotional needs as they were formulated by natural selection over several million years in nature. Especially whatever needs he may have for natural patterns, natural "beauty" and the whole question of diversity and stimulation from a beautiful, colorful, environment. I still find, however, on many panels and group meetings that I have attended in the last year that the planners and especially the industrialists and government groups, such as the Army Corps of Engineers, are quite unaware of the great need that man has for these elusive qualities of the environment.

Enclosed are a few more papers that you might find of interest and in a month from now I will send you two more, one of which, in the 75th anniversary issue of Field and Stream, ought to reach a very wide audience of non-scientists.

May 22, 1970

With all good wishes.

Very sincerely yours,



Hugh H. Iltis  
Professor of Botany

HHI/ert

Enclosures

P.S. I have just reread your column on the Creed of Ecology and may I say again, how much I admire not only what you say but the way you say it. I think especially paragraph 3 and paragraph 4 are phrased very beautifully. It is almost as if you were writing poetry.